



Statement of Inherent Requirements

Faculty	Health
School	Clinical Sciences
Courses	Undergraduate Course Bachelor of Human Nutrition [686AA] Postgraduate Courses Graduate Certificate in Human Nutrition Postgraduate Diploma in Human Nutrition Master of Nutrition & Dietetics [772AA]

Ethical Behaviour

Inherent Requirement

- Behave ethically and professionally in academic and professional environments, complying with relevant standards and codes of ethics applicable to the profession.

Rationale

- Compliance with relevant professional standards and/or codes of conduct, and commonly accepted standards of professional behaviour facilitates safe, competent interactions and relationships for students and the people they engage with in all contexts. This supports the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all.

Related Professional Requirements: [Dietitians Association of Australia](#) Codes of Professional Conduct and Statements of Ethical Practice

Examples

- Apply ethical behaviour in the management of confidential and sensitive personal information.
- Ability to use suitable evaluation tools to review effectiveness of practice.
- Reflect on ethical dilemmas and issues, and take responsibility for ensuring awareness of ethical behaviour.

Legal Compliance

Inherent Requirement

- Comply with Australian Law, professional regulations and/or scope of practice relevant to the profession.

Rationale

- Knowledge, understanding and compliance with Australian law and professional regulations facilitates effective, professional, responsible and accountable professionals, and is necessary to work effectively and meet professional registration requirements.

Related Professional Requirements: [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(ACT\)](#)

Examples

- Complies with all pre-placement requirements as appropriate (e.g. National Police Checks, immunisations, privacy and confidentiality agreements, internship learning agreements, confirmation of insurance notifications).
- Demonstrates competent practice to the standard described by the *DAA Competency Standards for Australian Dietitians 2015*.
- Compliance with the [University of Canberra Privacy Policy](#), which complies with the [Information Privacy Act 2014 \(ACT\) \(the Privacy Act\)](#) and [Territory Privacy Principles \(TPP's\)](#). Practicing within the Association scope of practice.

Communication Skills

1. Expressive Communication Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Communicate effectively, in English, to a standard that allows clear, scholarly, and professional-level messages and text with language use and style appropriate to the audience.

Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

Examples

- Construct coherent written communication to an academic and professional standard as appropriate to the circumstances.
- Paraphrase a client's message to confirm understanding.
- Actively participate in group discussions. e.g case conferences and informal discussions concerning patient or client care.

2. Receptive Language Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Internally formulate and assess conceptual meaning from verbal language and written messages and/or text, in English, using knowledge of language, background knowledge, critical thinking skills, self-reflection and other emotional intelligence markers.

Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

Examples

- Read and comprehend information presented in a variety of standard formats such as handwritten notes; test results, graphical formats such as charts and accessing computerised information.
- Comprehend spoken English delivered at conversational speed (including in noisy environments, such as hospital wards).
- Participating in tutorial, simulation, clinical and placement discussions.

3. Interpersonal Communication Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Respectful communication with others, including the ability to listen, display and respect empathy, build rapport and gain trust to ensure meaningful and effective interactions with people they engage with.

Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

Examples

- Communicate respectfully with people of different gender, sexuality and age, and from diverse cultural, religious, socio-economic and educational backgrounds.
- Create and develop rapport with peers, academic and profession staff conducive to effecting working relationships
- Cultural competence, sensitivity and willingness to work with individuals in a complex and diverse Australian educational setting.
- Perceive and interpret nonverbal communication including distress, a change in mood, activity or posture.
- Assess patient/client/group reactions to facilitate nutritional care.

Behavioural Stability

Inherent Requirement

- Behaviour that is adaptable to effectively manage changing situations sufficiently to maintain academic and professional relationships to acceptable community standards.

Rationale

- Behavioural stability is essential in managing personal emotional responses and behaviour in academic and complex professional environments, including situations of potential human distress. It is required to work constructively in culturally and socially diverse settings and to deal with challenging issues, timelines and ambiguously defined problems.

Examples

- Being receptive and responding appropriately to constructive feedback.

- Managing own emotions and behaviour effectively when dealing with individuals and/or groups in the academic environment and clinical settings.
- Undertake reflective practice, and seeking personal and professional support and/or assistance when needed.

Motor Skills
<p>Inherent requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient tactile function, strength and mobility to function within the dietician’s scope of practice.
<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietetics requires gross and fine motor function in order to consistently provide safe and effective nutritional care in order to minimise the risk of harm to self and others.
<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically examine people of different genders. • Provide basic life support, which requires the ability to kneel and use both arms. • Cleanse hands and forearms using disinfecting products.

Sensory Skills
<p>Inherent requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient sensorimotor skills, including visual, auditory and tactile acuity to function with the dietician’s scope of practice.
<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietetics and nutrition requires visual, auditory and tactile acuity in order to consistently provide safe and effective nutritional care in order to minimise the risk of harm to self and others.
<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess client appearance, behaviour, posture, movement and speech. • Monitor the broader practice environment (including observing multiple clients and events simultaneously). • Differentiate between foods using taste.

Cognitive Skills
<p>Inherent Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire knowledge, process information, analyse, think critically and synthesise information to apply knowledge of the discipline and sufficiently meet learning outcomes and academic standards relevant to the course, utilising cognitive, numeracy and literacy skills, including focus, memory, and attention to detail.
<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive skills are essential in acquisition and application of knowledge in both the academic and professional

environment.

Examples

- Calculating measurements from data e.g. anthropometric measurements, nutritional requirements, enteral/parenteral feeding regimens, therapeutic dietary prescriptions.
- Interpreting clinical, nutritional and health data to form a nutritional diagnosis and make priority nutritional management decisions.
- The ability to read, decode, interpret, synthesize and comprehend information from multiple sources, and implement relevant knowledge of theory into practice.

ICT Capacity

Inherent Requirement

- Acquire, and employ information and communications technology (ICT) skills in an appropriate and effective manner, utilising a range of systems in both the academic and professional setting.

Rationale

- Competent ICT skills are essential to successfully access, apply and communicate information.

Examples

- Submit assessment items online.
- Use ICT to access information and to complete assessment tasks as required.
- Use ICT in the clinical setting, such as completing case notes in the health record system.

Sustainable Performance

Inherent requirements

- Complete tasks in a timely manner and within a designated period, where required, while maintaining consistency and quality of performance.

Rationale

- Sufficient physical and mental endurance is an essential requirement needed to perform multiple tasks in an assigned period to provide safe and effective care.

Examples

- Remain focussed and provide consistent responses over the course of a clinical placement.
- Perform multiple tasks in an assigned period with a level of concentration that ensures a capacity to focus on the activity until it is completed appropriately.
- Attend clinical or practicum placements in a range of settings and for the required number of hours, within a reasonable period.

Acknowledgement:

Content from the following documents were used, with permission, in the preparation of this document.

- (1) The University of Western Sydney inherent requirements for Nursing, Physiotherapy and Midwifery.*
- (2) The University of Sydney inherent requirements for Dietetics Courses.*